not four such swinge-bucklers [4] in all the inns of court again : and, I may say to you, we knew where the bona-robas [5] were : and had the best of them all at commandment. Then was Jack Falstaff, now sir John, a boy : and page to Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk.

Six. This sir John, cousin, that comes hither anon about soldiers ?

Shal. The same sir John, the very same. I saw

discontinued after his death. However, Cotswold might have been long famous for meetings of tumultuous swinge-bucklers*
See vol. viii. p. 16, n. 6. MALONE.

4 — swinge-bucklers —] *Swinge-bucklers* and *swash-bucklers* were words implying *rajces* or *rioters* in the time of Shakspeare.

Nash, addressing himself to his old opponent Gabriel Harvey, 1598, says : ". *Turpe senex miles,* 'tis time for such an olde foole to leave playing the *swash-buckler* ."

Again, In The Devil's Charter, 1607, Caraffa says, " when I was a scholar in Padua, faith , then I could have *swinged a sword and buckler'* &c. STEEVENS.

[66] West Smithfield (says the Continuator of Stowe's Annals, 1631,) was for many years called *Ritffians' Hall,* by reason it was the usual place of fraves and common fighting, during the time that *sword and buckler* were in use ; when every serving-man, from the base to the best, carried a buckler at his backe, which hung by the hilt or pummel of his sword which hung before him. — Untill the 20th year of Queen Elizabeth, it was usual to have fraves, fights, and quarrels upon the sundayes and holydayes, sometimes, twenty, thirty, and forty swords and bucklers, halfe against halfe, as well by quarrels of appointment as by chance. — And in the winter season all the high streets were much annoyed and troubled with hourly fraves, and *sword and buckler men,* who took pleasure in that *dragging* fight : and although they made great shew of much furie, and fought often, yet seldome any man was hurt, for thrusting was not then in use, neither would any one of twenty strike beneath the waste, by reason they held it cowardly and beastly," MALONE.

<* — bona-robas — i. e. ladies of pleasure. *Bona Roba.* Ital.
So, in The Bride, by Nabbes, 1640 :

"** Some *bona-roba* they have been sporting with.[0]

STEEVENS.

S«€ Florio's Italian Dictionary, 1598 : " *Buona roba.* as we *sav good stuft;* a good wholesome plump-cheeked wench,"*

MALONE*